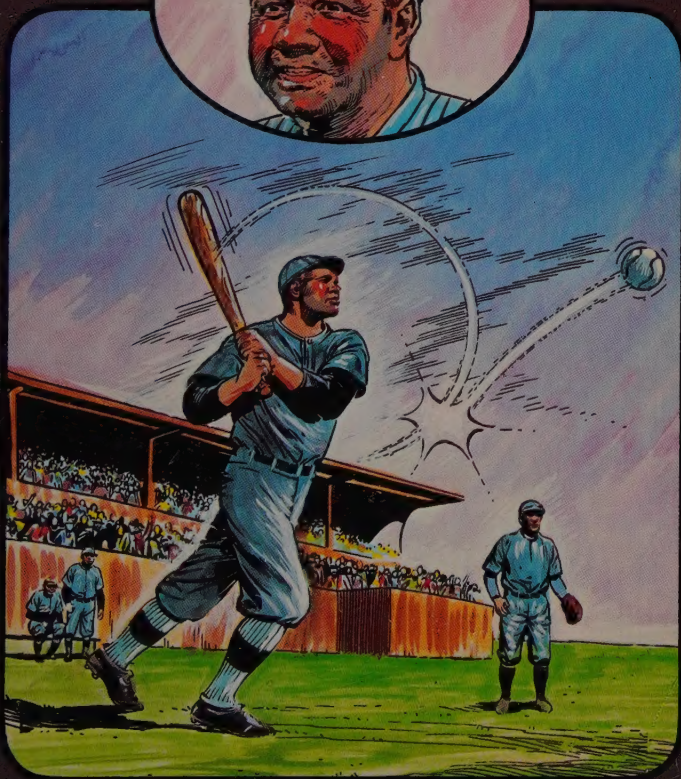


A Fun
Quiz Yourself
Section Included!

Babe Ruth



Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth



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Babe Ruth

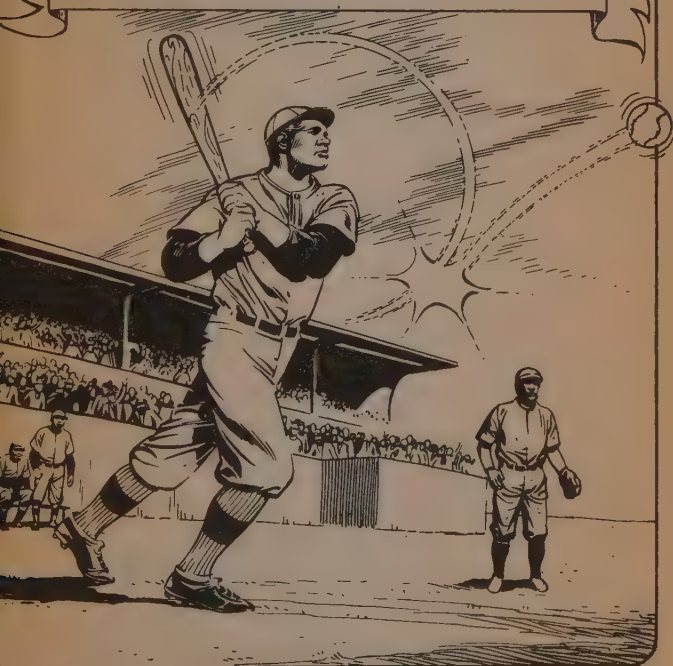
Contents

St. Mary's School	11-20
The minor leagues	21-25
The Red Sox	27-33
The Yankee slugger	35-44
Quiz yourself	47-53



BABE RUTH .

The year was 1914. It was the first game of spring training for the Baltimore Orioles. A rookie was batting. He swung. The ball went up . . . and up . . . and out over the fence.



St. Mary's School

That's the longest
ball ever hit here!
Who *is* that guy?

Some rookie
named Ruth.



*It was Babe Ruth's first game as a
professional baseball player.*

*The next day, Ruth woke up
early.*

What's the mat-
ter? What are
you doing up?

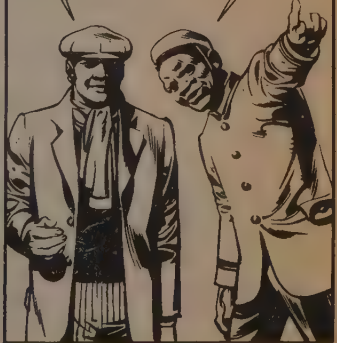
Just used to it,
I guess. We
always had to
be up early at
St. Mary's.



He left the hotel.

Which way to
the railroad
station?

Right that
way, sir.



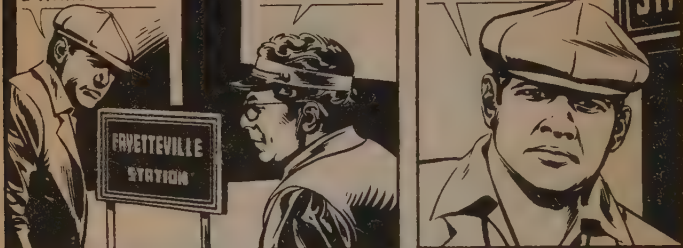
POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

Soon he reached the station.

Do you mind if I watch the trains for a while?

No. Are you catching a train?

Oh, no. I just never saw trains before!



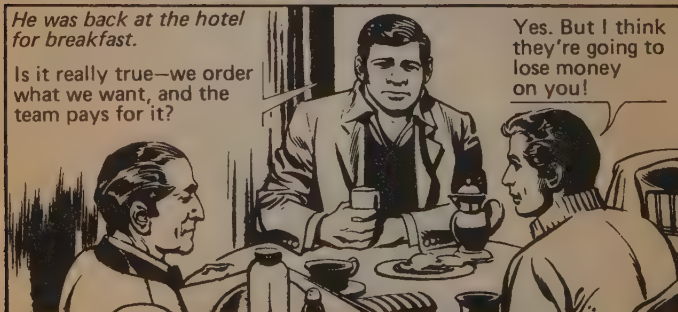
Look at that power!



He was back at the hotel for breakfast.

Is it really true—we order what we want, and the team pays for it?

Yes. But I think they're going to lose money on you!



Babe made friends with the boys who were always around the baseball field.

Will you show me how to pitch with my left arm?

Sure!



You hold the ball like this.



You wind up.



And then you throw.



Now will you let me ride your bike?

Take mine!

No, mine!

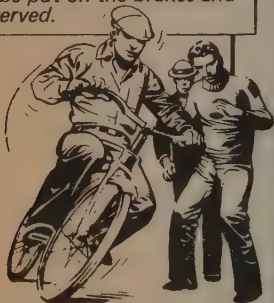


POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

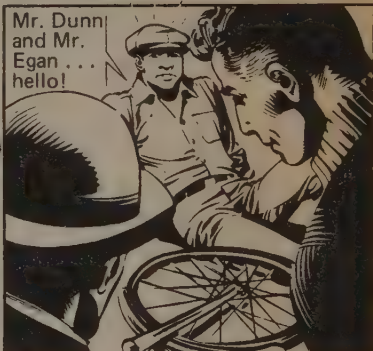
One day, when he was riding the bicycle, Babe had an accident.



Babe put on the brakes and swerved.



Mr. Dunn and Mr. Egan ... hello!



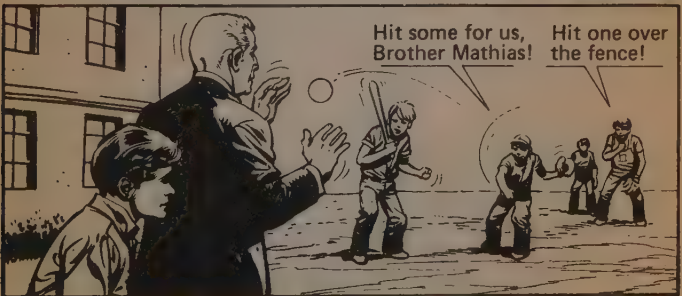
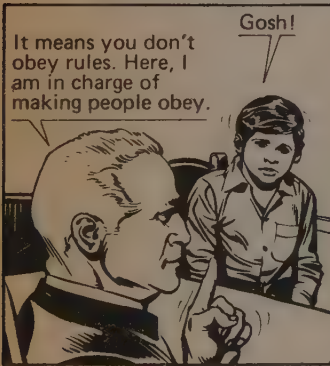
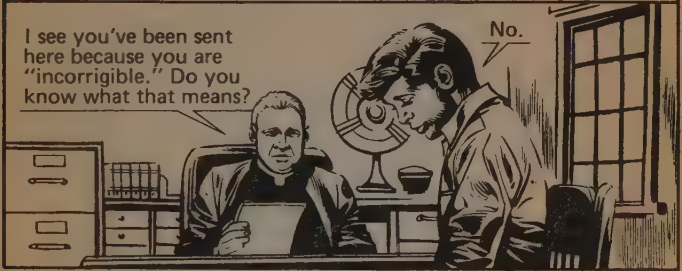
Jack Dunn was the owner and manager of the Orioles. Egan was the catcher and field captain.

All right, kid! If you want to go back to St. Mary's, keep riding those bicycles!

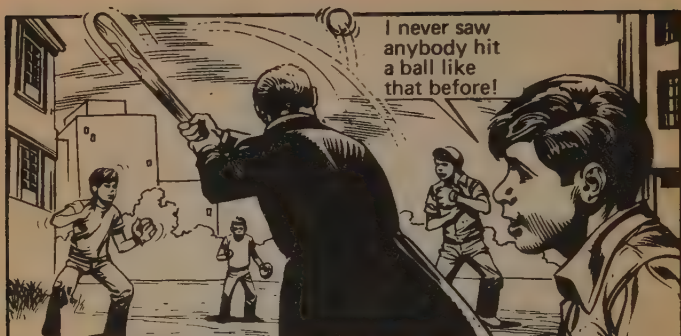
No, sir! I'll stop right now!



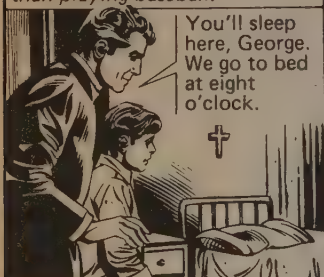
St. Mary's School in Baltimore looked like a prison. George Herman Ruth was sent there when he was about eight years old.



POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

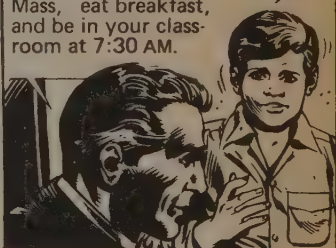


But St. Mary's meant more than playing baseball.



You get up at six o'clock. You must wash, dress, attend Mass, eat breakfast, and be in your classroom at 7:30 AM.

Wow!



After lunch each day, the boys worked to learn a trade.

This is George Ruth. He's to work here in the shirt factory.

All right, George. We'll teach you to put collars on shirts.

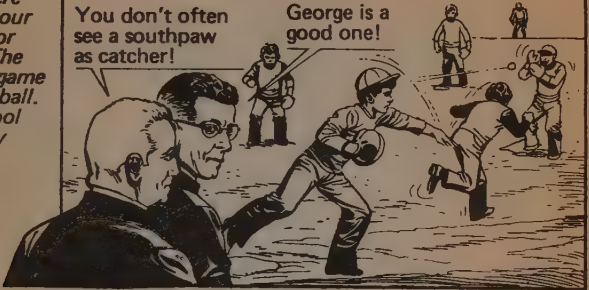


But in the late afternoon there was an hour or two for games. The favorite game was baseball. The school had forty teams.

Soon George was playing on one of them.

You don't often see a southpaw as catcher!

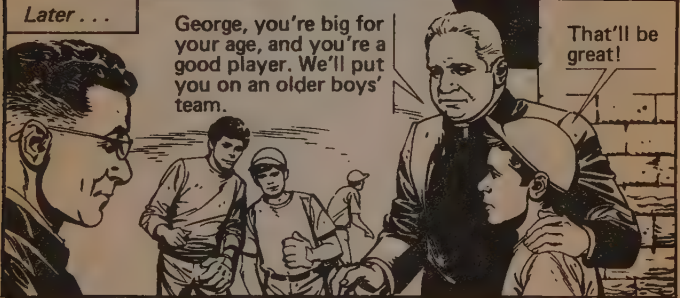
George is a good one!



Later . . .

George, you're big for your age, and you're a good player. We'll put you on an older boys' team.

That'll be great!



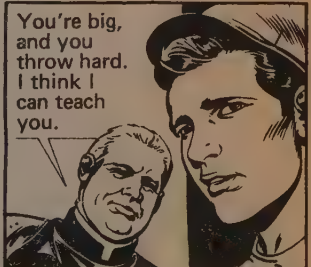
Then there was another change.

We need a pitcher on our best team. Why don't you try it?

Gosh! I don't know how to pitch!



You're big, and you throw hard. I think I can teach you.



Brother Mathias helped George become a good pitcher.

POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

When George was nineteen, his team played against Mount St. Joseph's best team. All the boys attended the game.

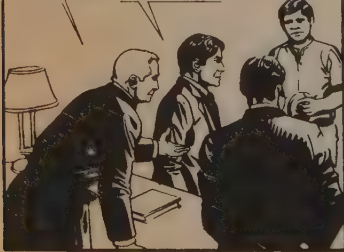


Soon afterward, George was called to the office.

George,
this is
Mr. Dunn.
He owns
the Balti-
more
Orioles.

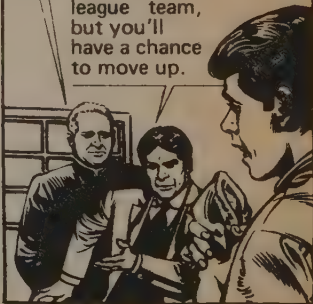
You did
some nice
pitching
out there!

Thanks.

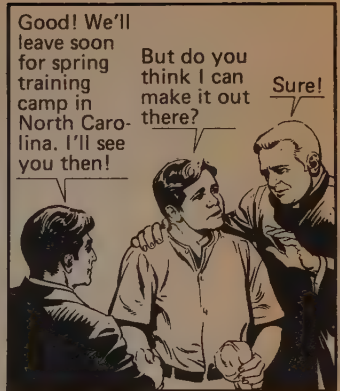
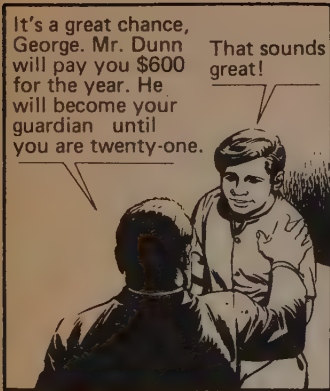


Mr. Dunn would like you to
play for his team next season.

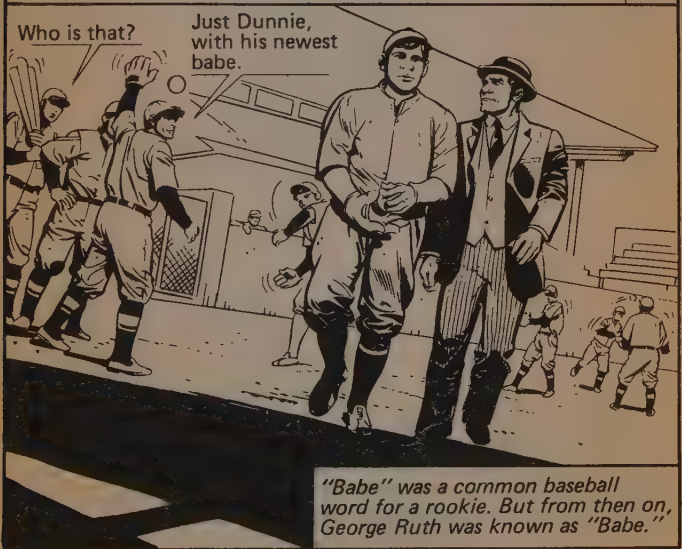
It's a minor
league team,
but you'll
have a chance
to move up.



The Minor Leagues



Just after his twentieth birthday, George left St. Mary's. He took his first train ride, to Fayetteville, and followed Jack Dunn onto the field.

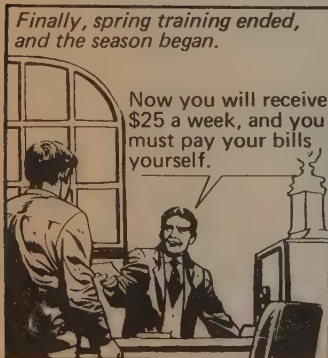
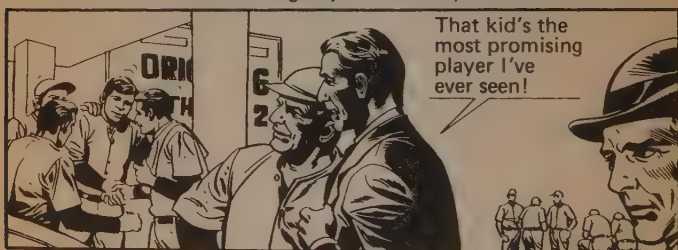


POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

He had spent most of his life at St. Mary's. He didn't know about trains or hotels or bicycles or money. But he knew about baseball.



The Orioles went on the road. Babe pitched his first full game against the best team in the minor leagues, the Philadelphia Athletics.



Babe hurried to a store.

I want the best you've got!

Certainly, sir!



And then he roared off on a new red motorcycle.



B-r-r-r-OOOOM!

He kept playing well. In May, he got a raise.

I'm going to double your salary, Babe.



And in June he got still another.

Thank you, sir!
Babe, I'm giving you another raise.



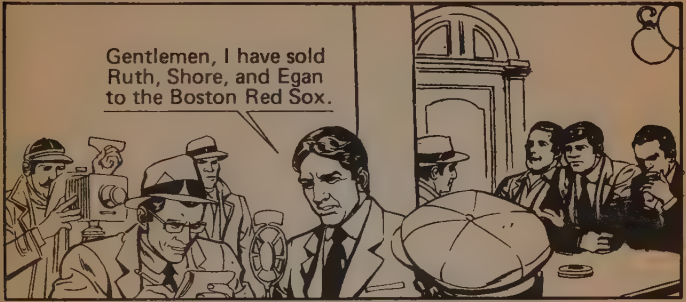
But things were not going well for Dunn.

I've given Baltimore a winning team. But the people don't come out to see us play. We're losing money. I have to sell some players.



The Red Sox

On Thursday, July 10, 1914, Dunn told the newspapers of the sale.



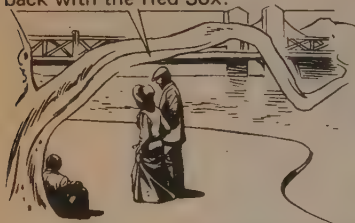
On Saturday morning, Babe and the others reached Boston.



POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

The waitress was Helen Woodford. Soon she and Babe were going out together.

I'm being sent to the Providence minor league team. At the end of the season, though, I'll be back with the Red Sox.



Oh, Babe!
I'll miss
you!

You won't have
a chance. It's
only forty miles
away.



But the season was ending.

The Providence Grays were the winners in their league. Babe finished the season with a record of twenty-eight wins and nine losses.

I'll be in Baltimore
for the winter. It
may be April before
I see you again!



Look, why don't
we get married?

Oh, gosh! I
don't know.
All right!



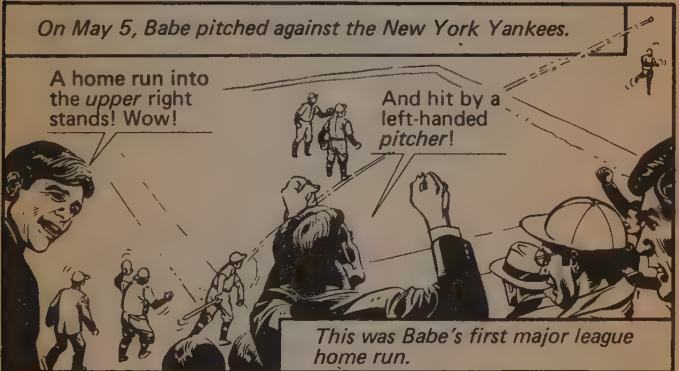
Babe Ruth

They were married at St. Paul's Church, near Baltimore.



Babe was only twenty years old, but already he had a wife, a job in the major leagues, and a good salary.

On May 5, Babe pitched against the New York Yankees.

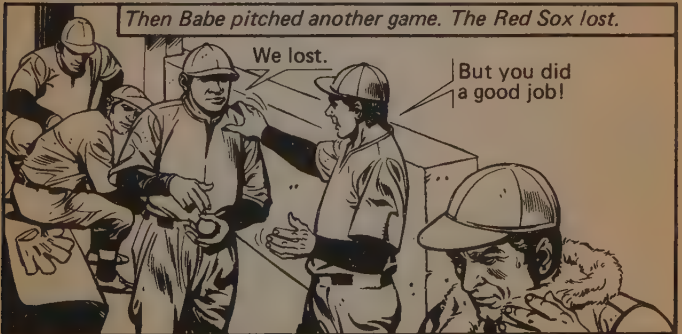


A home run into the upper right stands! Wow!

And hit by a left-handed pitcher!

This was Babe's first major league home run.

Then Babe pitched another game. The Red Sox lost.

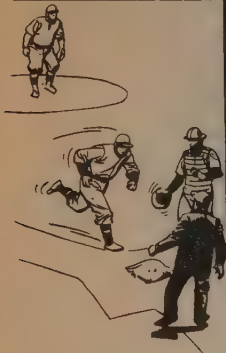


We lost.

But you did a good job!

POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

Babe's fourth and last home run of the season came in July in St. Louis.



Look at that!
Clear out of
the park!



It broke a window
in a store across
the street!



Babe's home run was the longest ball ever hit in the St. Louis park. Babe also hit two doubles and a single, and he pitched a complete game. The Red Sox won, 4-3.

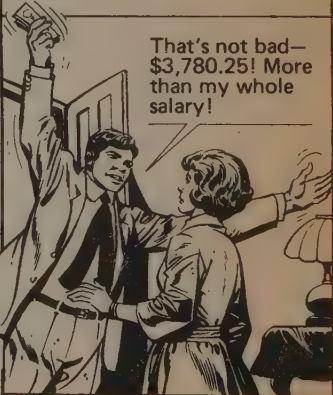
The Red Sox won in their league, but Babe did not get to pitch in the World Series.



I can do it.
Just give me
a chance!

I know it,
Babe. But
I want to
use right-
handed
pitchers.

The Red Sox won the World Series. And Babe got a check as a member of the winning team.



That's not bad—
\$3,780.25! More
than my whole
salary!

In 1916, Babe had a great season. The fans loved him.

What a guy! Twenty-three wins, nine of them shutouts!

And he hit three home runs in one game!



Once again, the Red Sox were world champions. Babe pitched a fourteen-inning game—the longest ever played in a World Series.

In 1918, the Red Sox got a new manager, Ed Barrow.

You're a star pitcher, Babe, but you're also a great hitter.



Why don't you play outfield on the days you don't pitch?

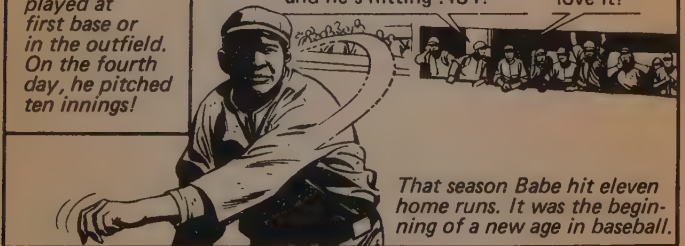
I think I'll hit even better if I can play every day!



For the next three days, Babe Ruth played at first base or in the outfield. On the fourth day, he pitched ten innings!

This guy's the best! Three home runs in three days, and he's hitting .484!

The fans love it!



That season Babe hit eleven home runs. It was the beginning of a new age in baseball.

The Yankee Slugger

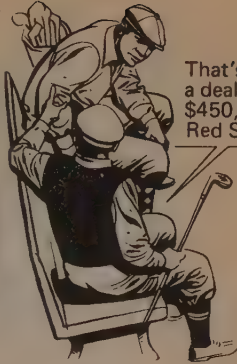
In early 1920, Miller Huggins, the manager of the Yankees, came to see Babe.

Hello, Babe.
May I talk
to you?

Sure. Have I
been traded
to the
Yankees?

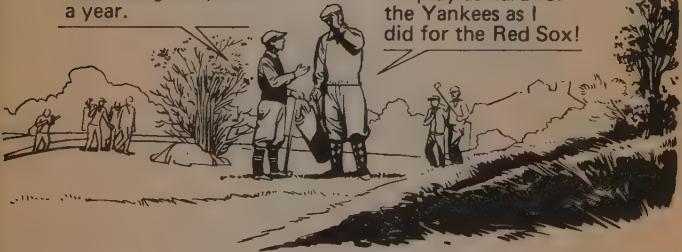


That's right—in
a deal worth
\$450,000 to the
Red Sox owner.



And we'll double
your salary. You'll
be making \$20,000
a year.

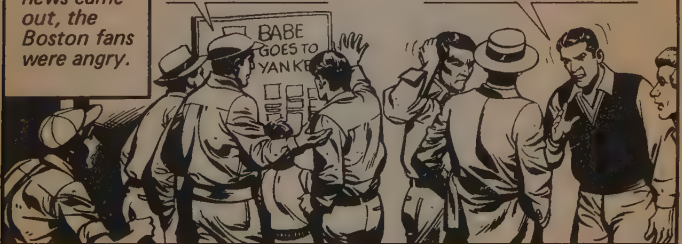
I'll play as hard for
the Yankees as I
did for the Red Sox!



*When the
news came
out, the
Boston fans
were angry.*

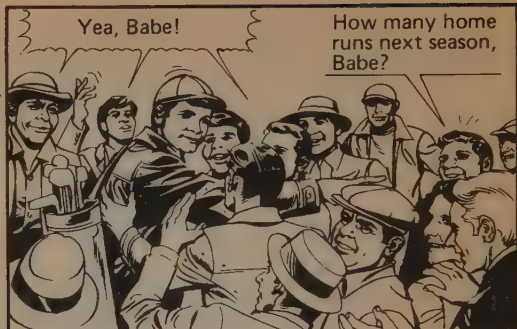
I'll never forgive
them for this!

The Red Sox are finished
without Babe!

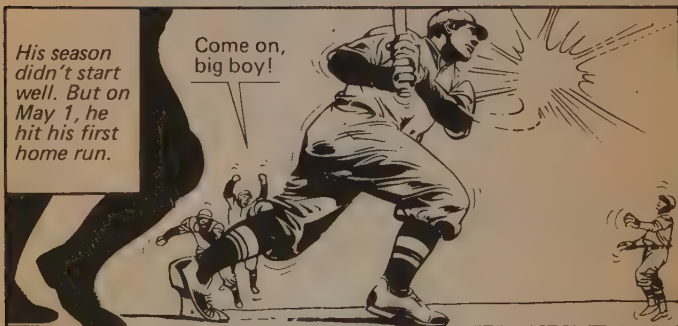


POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

Happy New York fans cheered him when he left for the Yankees' spring training camp.



His season didn't start well. But on May 1, he hit his first home run.



Now Babe was famous all over the country. On road trips, there were problems.

You're Babe Ruth's roommate. Tell us what he's like.

I hardly ever see him.



Babe Ruth

At night, Babe would rather go to parties than go to bed.

I've told you before— you can't stay out all night breaking the training rules and still play good baseball!



Sometimes Babe was fined, even suspended. But he never really learned to keep the rules.

With Babe as its star, the Yankees drew large crowds. On April, 18, 1923, the team began playing in a new park.

It's the greatest place I ever saw!

The baseball writers are calling it "The House that Ruth Built!"



Meanwhile, Babe and Helen had separated. In 1923, Babe met Claire Hodgson, and they became friends.

In 1929, Helen died. A few months later, Babe and Claire were married.

It's nice to have someone to talk to.

I'm glad we're friends.



POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

Afterward, they talked to reporters.

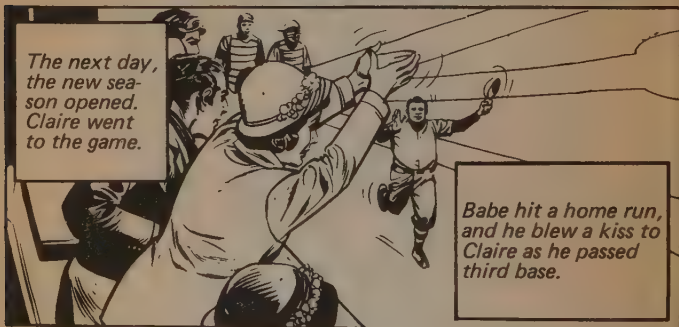
Where are you going on your honeymoon?

We're not going on a honeymoon. Babe has baseball games to play!



The next day, the new season opened. Claire went to the game.

Babe hit a home run, and he blew a kiss to Claire as he passed third base.



Claire had a daughter, Julia, by an earlier marriage. Babe had an adopted daughter, Dorothy. Now the families lived together.



Babe liked children. They were his favorite fans.

Sign my card, Babe!

You big boys give the little ones a chance!



Sometimes, driving home after a game, Babe would see boys playing ball.

Hey, look! It's Babe Ruth!

Come and hit a few with us, Babe!



Often he would stop and play with them.

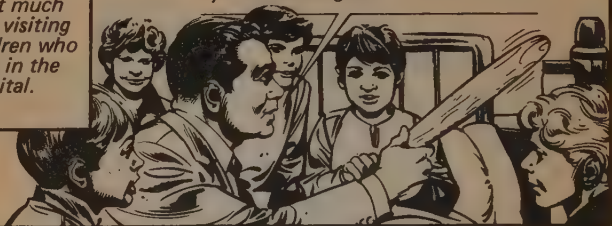
Now back up and catch this pop fly!



POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

Babe also spent much time visiting children who were in the hospital.

Now, you hold the bat like this.
And when you're a little stronger,
you can swing it!



From 1926 through 1932, Babe Ruth averaged fifty home runs a year. He batted .354, and played in seven World Series.

The Yankees did it again!

That Babe! Can you believe he's thirty-seven years old?



He held or shared sixty-one baseball records. Twenty-eight were World Series records. And his lifetime home run record—714—would not be broken for forty years!

Babe stopped playing in 1935. But twelve years later he had not been forgotten.

Did you see this? Babe Ruth is in the hospital!

Gosh! I wish I could see him play baseball!



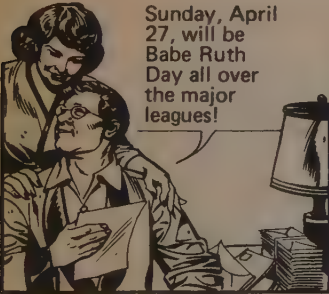
These are letters for Babe Ruth. And there are more outside!



Thirty thousand letters arrived. And when he left the hospital, Babe needed help from the police to get to his car.

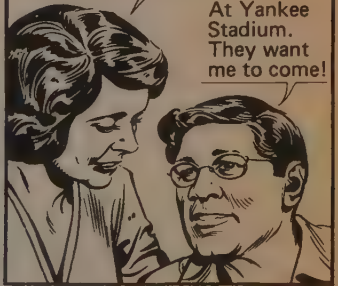


Later, a day was set aside to honor Babe.



In New York, too?

At Yankee Stadium. They want me to come!



Sixty thousand other people were there as well.

And now, ladies and gentlemen . . . Babe Ruth!

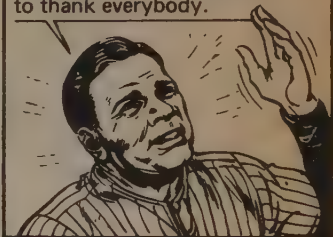


POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

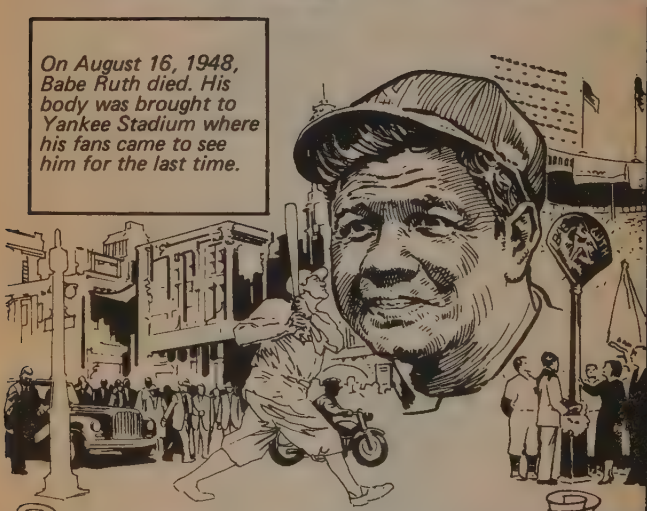
Thank you, ladies
and gentlemen.



There have been so many
lovely things said about me.
I'm glad I have this chance
to thank everybody.



*On August 16, 1948,
Babe Ruth died. His
body was brought to
Yankee Stadium where
his fans came to see
him for the last time.*



*People came—77,000 of them—to say goodbye. No
one would ever forget the thrills he had given them
during his life.*

THE
END

Do you remember?



Babe was only eight when he was sent to St. Mary's School. His teacher saw that he was:

- a. a good student.
- b. a tall boy.
- c. a good baseball player.



With the Boston Orioles he played:

- a. pitcher.
- b. first base.
- c. outfielder.

POCKET BIOGRAPHIES



Babe Ruth held a record forty years. It was for:

- a. the greatest number of home runs in a single career.
- b. the most strikeouts in a pitching career.
- c. the most walks.



Yankee Stadium was also known as:

- a. "The House that Ruth Built."
- b. Disneyland.
- c. the Olympic Stadium.

Quiz Yourself

(Answers at end of section)

Words to know

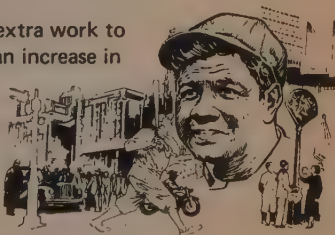
salary	money one receives for doing a job
guardian	one who takes care of another person
World Series	games played between the winners of both leagues to decide the world champion team
inning	the time it takes for each team to make three outs in a baseball game
reporters	people who write stories for newspapers



Can you use them?

Using the words above, complete the following sentences.

1. A child whose parents have died would be looked after by a _____.
2. In 1978, the Yankees won the _____.
3. Some sports _____ like to write about the personal lives of athletes.
4. When a person is given extra work to do, he usually receives an increase in his _____.
5. At the end of the third _____, the score was tied.



POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

Using pictures

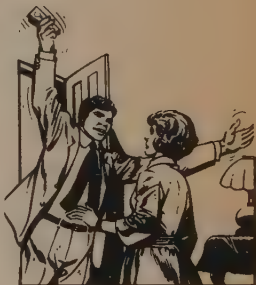
In reading illustrated stories, you will find it helpful to "read" the pictures as well as the words. Look at this picture. It shows the Red Sox manager asking Babe Ruth to play outfield on days

when he wasn't pitching. Babe was such a good baseball player that people expected more of him than they did of other players. Look at pages 21 and 27 to see some of the things Babe did that made the fans like him so much.



While you are reading

Because he was a star, Babe Ruth had many problems that ordinary people never have. Some of Babe's own qualities caused him problems, too. While you are reading, make a list of all the problems Babe Ruth had to face because of his fame or because of the kind of person he was.



How well did you read?

When you have finished reading, answer the following questions.

1. Who gave Babe Ruth his first chance to play baseball for a major league team?

(Check the correct answer.)

- _____ a. Brother Mathias
- _____ b. Jack Dunn
- _____ c. Phil Egan
- _____ d. Ed Barrow
- _____ e. Miller Huggins



2. Why was Babe Ruth sold by the Orioles to the Boston Red Sox?

(Check the correct answer.)

- _____ a. The Orioles weren't winning enough games.
- _____ b. Babe was a troublemaker.
- _____ c. Babe was in a batting slump.
- _____ d. The Orioles needed money.

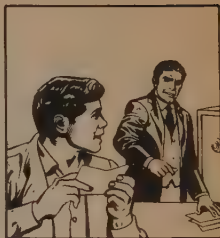


POCKET BIOGRAPHIES

3. What did Babe do with his first paycheck?

(Check the correct answer.)

- _____ a. He used the money to buy a motorcycle.
- _____ b. He sent the money to his wife.
- _____ c. He put the check in the bank.
- _____ d. He donated the money to St. Mary's School.



4. How did Babe show his thanks to the young fans who always came to see him?

(Check the correct *answers*.)

- _____ a. He always signed their scorecards when they asked.
- _____ b. He gave them money to fix up their baseball fields.
- _____ c. He often stopped to play ball with them.
- _____ d. He visited them in the hospitals when they were sick.
- _____ e. He wrote letters to all the children who wrote to him.



Babe Ruth

5. How did George Herman Ruth come to be called "Babe"?
(Check the correct answer.)

- _____ a. George never really grew up.
- _____ b. His teammates at St. Mary's used the name to make fun of George.
- _____ c. George always liked children better than he liked adults.
- _____ d. The Orioles' players used the name because it meant "rookie."



Using what you've read

During his life, Babe Ruth was often the subject of newspaper articles. People loved to read and to talk about him. Suppose that you had been a newspaper reporter during Babe Ruth's time. What questions would you have asked Babe about his career in the major leagues? How do you think he would have answered your questions? Write a brief account of your interview, using the form below. Include at least three questions and answers.

Question:

Answer:



ANSWER KEY

BABE RUTH

Can you use them?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. guardian | 3. reporters |
| 2. World Series | 4. salary |
| 5. inning | |

How well did you read?

- | | |
|------|------------|
| 1. b | 3. a |
| 2. d | 4. a, c, d |
| 5. d | |

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- C 2 The Call of the Wild
- C 3 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
- C 4 Dracula
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- C 7 Moby Dick
- C 8 The Red Badge of Courage
- C 9 The Time Machine
- C10 Tom Sawyer
- C11 Treasure Island
- C12 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
- C13 The Great Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
- C14 Gulliver's Travels
- C15 The Hunchback of Notre Dame
- C16 The Invisible Man
- C17 Journey to the Center of the Earth
- C18 Kidnapped
- C19 The Mysterious Island
- C20 The Scarlet Letter
- C21 The Story of My Life
- C22 A Tale of Two Cities
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- C25 Around the World in Eighty Days
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- C37 Ben Hur
- C38 A Christmas Carol
- C39 The Food of the Gods
- C40 Ivanhoe
- C41 The Man in the Iron Mask
- C42 The Prince and the Pauper
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- C44 The Return of the Native
- C45 Robinson Crusoe
- C46 The Scarlet Pimpernel
- C47 The Sea Wolf
- C48 The Swiss Family Robinson
- C49 Billy Budd
- C50 Crime and Punishment
- C51 Don Quixote
- C52 Great Expectations
- C53 Heidi
- C54 The Illiad
- C55 Lord Jim
- C56 The Mutiny on Board H.M.S. Bounty
- C57 The Odyssey
- C58 Oliver Twist
- C59 Pride and Prejudice
- C60 The Turn of the Screw

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- S 5 Macbeth
- S 6 The Merchant of Venice
- S 7 A Midsummer Night's Dream
- S 8 Othello
- S 9 Romeo and Juliet
- S10 The Taming of the Shrew
- S11 The Tempest
- S12 Twelfth Night

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- B 3 Houdini
- B 4 Walt Disney
- B 5 Davy Crockett
- B 6 Daniel Boone
- B 7 Elvis Presley
- B 8 The Beatles
- B 9 Benjamin Franklin
- B10 Martin Luther King, Jr.
- B11 Abraham Lincoln
- B12 Franklin D. Roosevelt
- B13 George Washington
- B14 Thomas Jefferson
- B15 Madame Curie
- B16 Albert Einstein
- B17 Thomas Edison
- B18 Alexander Graham Bell
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- B20 Pelé
- B21 Babe Ruth
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Babe Ruth

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